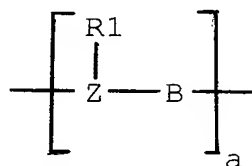


In the Claims

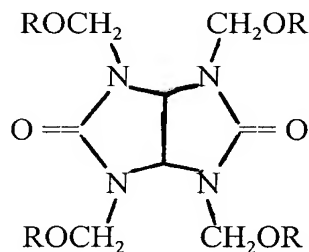
A complete listing of all claims in the application follows:

1. (Currently amended) Water-soluble aminoplast ether copolymers of the following structural type:



where:

Z comprises an aminoplast unit based on a glycoluril of formula



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl groups, and acyl groups;

B comprises a radical of an essentially water-insoluble polymer selected from poly-n-butyl acrylate, poly-n-butyl methacrylate, polyethyl acrylate, polytetrahydrofuran, polyethyl methacrylate, polymethyl acrylate, polymethyl methacrylate, a predominantly aliphatic polycarbonate and a predominantly aromatic polycarbonate, which are able to react with the OR-function of the aminoplast unit,

R1 comprises a radical of a hydrophilic organic compound containing at least one functional group which is able to react with the OR group of the aminoplast unit to form an ether bond, selected from the group consisting of a radical of methylcellulose, polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, ethylene/acrylic acid/sodium acrylate copolymer, polyalkylglycol, polyvinyl alcohols and polyvinylpyrrolidone, and

a is at least 1;

wherein the overall mass of the water-soluble aminoplast ether copolymer is from about 2000 to 50 000 g/mol, ~~and~~
~~wherein the molar ratio R1 : B is about 1.5 to 4 : 1.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) Aminoplast ether copolymers of Claim 1 wherein R is selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups having 1 to about 4 carbon atoms, and acyl groups having 1 to about 4 carbon atoms.

6. (Previously presented) Aminoplast ether copolymers of Claim 1 wherein R is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl groups.

7. (Previously presented) Aminoplast ether copolymers of Claim 1 wherein the R1 radical has a molar mass of from about 500 to 30 000 g/mol.

8. (Previously presented) Aminoplast ether copolymers of Claim 1 wherein the B radical has a molar mass of from about 100 to 30 000 g/mol.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) A process for preparing an aminoplast ether copolymer of Claim 1 comprising reacting the aminoplast unit Z with B and R1 radicals or with prepolymers formed therefrom under acidic catalysts in solution.

11. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 10, wherein the reaction is carried out in a one-pot process in from 15% to 35% strength solution in respect of total reactants used at 70 to 130°C, and, after reacting for about 2 to 10 h, adding a neutralizing agent, to obtain molar masses of the copolymers of from about 2000 to 50 000 g/mol.

12. (Previously presented) An Aminoplast ether copolymers obtained by the process of Claim 10.

13. (Previously presented) A dispersant or stabilizer for pigments or fillers comprising the aminoplast ether copolymers of Claim 1.

14. (Previously presented) The dispersant or stabilizer of Claim 13 mixed in an aqueous system.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) A coating composition, comprising a binder, pigments and/or fillers, and the aminoplast ether copolymer of Claim 1 dispersed together.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) A pigment paste comprising a pigment, a solvent and the aminoplast ether copolymer of claim 1.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously presented) The aminoplast ether copolymers of Claim 1 wherein the essentially water-insoluble polymer B comprises a hydroxyl function.

Basis for the Amendments to the Claims

The Applicants have amended Claim 1 by deleting a claim limitation that the molar ratio of R1:B in the composition, as claimed, is about 1.5 to 4:1, as that limitation was objected to by the USPTO.

Note, however, that no additional search is necessary as a result of this Amendment as the claimed language that is deleted was added to Claim 1 in the prior Amendment. Thus, Claim 1 as originally filed, and as originally searched by the USPTO, did not contain this limitation.

No new subject matter is introduced into the claims as a result of this amendment.